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Station number of document : IN 4299 CASERTA A-50319
Date of document : 13 Feb 1945
Title of document : Rumania--Internal Political Crisis.

Document to be filed in : IR/Archives Cables
Cross-reference form to : [] serial
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Excerpt of pertinent information :

1. The political campaign, which began two weeks ago with the Left demand for a National Democratic Front government was still strong in the past week. The Leftist press concentrated its attacks on the Ministers Huditzu, of Agriculture and Leontuzia, of National Economy, and the rest of the government generally.
2. Techari Georgescu, under-Secretary of State for Interior, attacked the government for harboring reactionary elements. Radescu is said to have demanded an apology and the Left press stated it intended no personal attack on him.
3. The "Frontal Plugarilor" manifesto calls on the peasants to act for an agrarian reform and confiscate the large estates.
4. The conservative countered by denouncing acts like the suspension of the newspaper "Dreptatea" by the Typesetter's Union and by criticism of the FND program. This was emphasized in a broadside by the National Liberals and distributed widely to the people. The National Peasants have a similar agrarian reform program but with compensation, and withholding action until the troops return.
5. The FND campaign and the rising crisis reached a critical point with Radescu's speech of 11 February. Originally the speech was scheduled for the Scala Theater and most of the invitations were sent to Liberals and National Peasants. In the morning FND's adherents forced their way into the theater and filled the seats. Hence Radescu went to another theater where a large crowd, mostly anti-FND, seemed strongly critical of the recent

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Left activities, and the audience was enthusiastic.

6. Main points of Radescu's speech:

- (A) He objected to criticism of the cabinet as Fascist and reactionary;
- (B) He criticized the suppression of the press by the syndicates;
- (C) He strongly opposed the distribution of land now, because of its effect on production and as unfair to the soldiers at the front;
- (D) He said that no one party could be responsible for the status of co-belligerency and the return of the administration to Northern Transylvania;
- (E) He made a strong plea for unity, order and the end of political agitation.

7. The same morning street manifestations by National Peasants and FND took place near the palace. There were a few minor scuffles before the theater, but they were not serious.

8. The Right Press praised the speech and the Left criticized it bitterly. Present information indicates a strong Left reaction to the speech. Conversations prior to the speech showed the Left did not expect it to be so strong.

9. At 1330 hours, on 12 February, Radescu made a second speech on the radio explaining the change in the meeting place, because he wanted to speak to the people and not to one political group. Hence the FND forced him to change from the Scala Theater.

10. Due to Radescu's strong words against the Left and its program, especially the agrarian reform, it is now possible that his speech will only hasten the FND campaign to seize the government. The FND may turn to attacking Radescu for party politics although up to now, they have carefully indicated that the attack was on "reactionaries" in the government and not on Radescu.

This is all the pertinent information on subject in this document.

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